10/31/06

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line ~~21~~ 20 with the following paragraph:

-- Preferably, the method also includes analyzing changes in cell shape. Additionally or ~~laternatively~~ alternatively, the method also includes analyzing the cytoskeleton of the cells. Additionally, the method also includes analyzing the distribution of biomolecules in the cells. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 29, line 1 with the following paragraph:

-- Figs. 96A and 96B and 96C are SEM micrographs, at ~~two~~ three different magnifications, of a fragment of murine heart prepared and imaged in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention; --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 30, line 6 with the following paragraph:

-- Figs. 107A and 107B are SEM micrographs, at two different magnifications, of commercial 1.5% fat cow's milk, prepared and imaged in accordance with ~~stll~~ still another preferred embodiment of the present invention; --

10/31/06

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 32, line ~~2~~ 3 with the following paragraph:

-- The present invention relates to methods for electron microscopic inspections of wet biological and environmental samples at a non-vacuum environment. More specifically, the patent application relates to methods for visualizing samples in a scanning electron microscope (SEM) without the need for dehydration procedures including water replacement

10/31/06

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 92, line ~~17~~ 10 with the following paragraph:

-- In accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention, cells are maintained under cell culture conditions, such as immersion in growth medium, for example, LB medium at 37°C for bacteria or in Dulbecco's modified essential medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere including 5% CO_2, for cultured animal cells, in a SEM compatible sample container, or in a subassembly thereof, prior to imaging. In this embodiment, the SEM compatible sample container or subassembly serves as an experimental vessel, analogous to conventional vessels, such as ~~petri~~ Petri dishes, cell culture dishes, cell culture flasks, and / or multiwell plates, for growth and/or manipulation of cells. Additionally, samples including cells and other samples may be subjected to various treatments, including, but not limited to, addition of mitogens, drugs, hormones, cytokines, antibiotics, toxic materials, viruses, bacteria, vital stains or other staining solutions, mixing (co-culture) of different cell types, transfection of cells with DNA, irradiation with ultraviolet, X-ray or gamma radiation, replacement of the growth medium with other media, such as media lacking serum, while in the sample container or subassembly, in accordance with the objectives of an experiment or an analysis. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 96, line 7 with the following paragraph:

-- In this embodiment, the method includes additional steps to provide close contact with the partition membrane. To maintain suitable contact with the partition